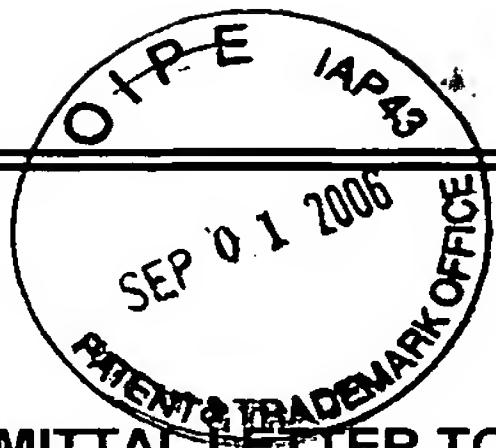


FORM PTO-1390
(REV 2-2005)
OMB-0651-0021U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
12143-0003
**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

DATE: September 1, 2006

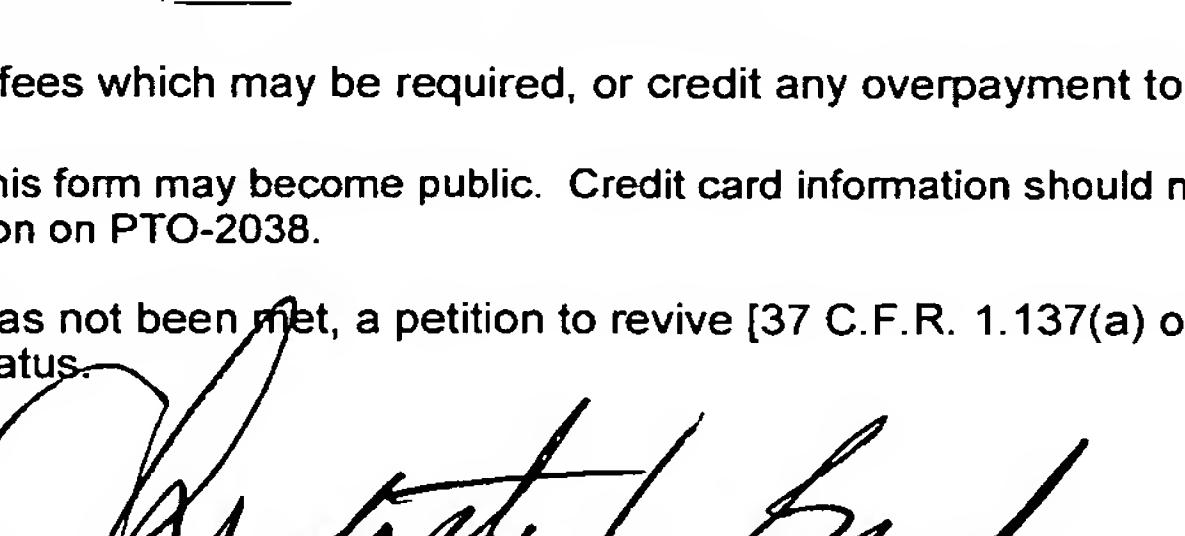
U.S. APPLN. NO.
(IF KNOWN, SEE 37 C.F.R. 1.5)
10/581,993INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP2005/015739INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
August 30, 2005PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
August 31, 2004
TITLE OF INVENTION: DIE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING STEPPED METAL PIPE OR TUBE, AND STEPPED METAL PIPE OR TUBE (as amended)
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: **Tatsuya OKUI; Koichi KURODA; and Masayoshi AKIYAMA**

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. (THE BASIC FILING FEE IS ATTACHED)
2. This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. This express request to begin national examination procedures [35 U.S.C. 371(f)] at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. A copy of the International Application as filed [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)]
 - a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. An English language translation of the International Application as filed [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)]
 - a. is attached hereto.
 - b. has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)]
 - a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. have not been made and will not be made.
8. An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)].
9. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)].
10. An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)].

Items 11 - 20 below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98.
12. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
 A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. A substitute specification.
16. A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. Other items or information:

U.S. APPLN. NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 C.F.R. 1.50) Not yet assigned		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2005/015739		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 12143-0003 DATE: June 7, 2006					
<input type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <input type="checkbox"/> 21.) Basic National Fee \$300 <input type="checkbox"/> 22.) Examination Fee - If International Preliminary Examination Report prepared by USPTO and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100 All other situations \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> 23.) Search Fee - If Search Fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) has been paid in the International Application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority \$100 International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office. \$400 All other situations \$500									
TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =									
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing on computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.									
Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)		RATE					
-100	/50=			x \$250					
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date [37 C.F.R. 1.492(h)].									
Claims	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate					
Total Claims	- 20 =			X \$50.00					
Independent Claims	- 3 =			X \$200.00					
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)				+ \$360.00					
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =									
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by 1/2									
SUBTOTAL =									
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date [37 C.F.R. 1.492(f)].									
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =									
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment [37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)]. The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property									
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Amount to be refunded</td> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charged</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table>						Amount to be refunded	\$	Charged	\$
Amount to be refunded	\$								
Charged	\$								
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-1088 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fee. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-1088. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.									
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 C.F.R. 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive [37 C.F.R. 1.137(a) or (b)] must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.									
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:									
CLARK & BRODY 1090 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Suite 250 Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: 202-835-1111 Fax: 202-835-1755									
 Christopher W. Brody Registration No. 33,613 Date: September 1, 2006									

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**CLARK & BRODY
1090 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: 202-835-1111
Fax: 202-835-1755**

Customer Number: 22902

Christopher W. Brody
Registration No. 33,613
Date: September 1, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
In the DO/EO/US

In re the Application of:

Tatsuya Okui et al.

Art Unit: not yet assigned

Application No.: 10/581,993

Examiner: not yet assigned

Filed: 06/07/2006

Attorney Dkt. No.: 12143-0003

For: DIE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING STEPPED METAL PIPE OR TUBE AND
STEPPED METAL PIPE AND TUBE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

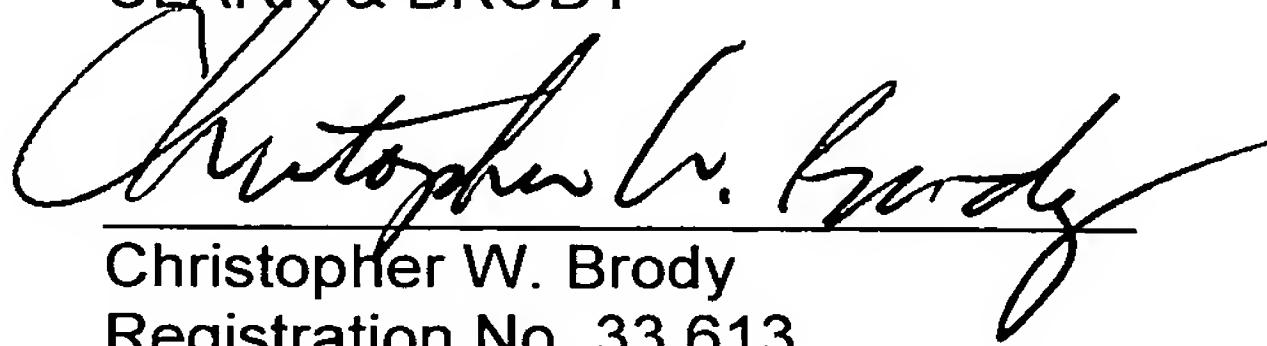
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Applicants respectfully submit that this disclosure is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), therefore, no fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



Christopher W. Brody
Registration No. 33,613

Customer No. 22902
1090 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 250
Washington DC 20005
Telephone: 202-835-1111
Facsimile: 202-835-1755

Date: September 1, 2006

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 12143-0003	SERIAL NO. 10/581,993
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		APPLICANT Tatsuya Okui et al.	
		FILING DATE 06/07/2006	GROUP ART UNIT Not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	YES	NO	PART.
	1.	52-035629	09/10/1977	Japan						x
	2.	10-099922	04/21/1998	Japan						x
	3.	2002-011518	01/15/2002	Japan						x

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.